

Filed for intro on 05/23/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 468
By Lewis

A RESOLUTION To honor the Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tennessee, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize the milestones of those exemplary installations, which courageously and industriously, through their ingenuity and hard work, serve to protect and defend the citizens, borders, and interests of this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Arnold Engineering Development Center at Arnold Air Force Base is most assuredly one such revolutionary installation which is richly deserving of this body's praise; and

WHEREAS, At the end of the Second World War the late General Henry H. Arnold, then the commanding General of the Army Air Forces, recognized the threat posed by Germany's rapid progress in developing high-performance jet aircraft and rocket-powered missiles; and

HJR0468

00745683

WHEREAS, General Arnold asked Dr. Theodore Von Karman, a renowned aeronautical scientist, to form a scientific group to investigate the German advantage and chart a long-range program of research and development for the Army Air Forces; and

WHEREAS, General Arnold's and Theodore Von Karman's vision for a strong national defense was the genesis of Public Law 415 of the United States of America's 81st Congress, the Unitary Wind Tunnel Plan Act of 1949 and the Air Engineering Development Center Act of 1949; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 1951, President Harry S. Truman dedicated Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) in honor of General Arnold, and the President noted in his address that "the scientists who work here will explore what lies on the other side of the speed of sound"; and

WHEREAS, With its wind tunnels, high-altitude rocket and jet engine test cells, space environmental chambers, hypervelocity ballistic ranges, and nuclear weapons effects simulators, AEDC has grown to be the most complete aerodynamic and propulsion testing complex in the free world; and

WHEREAS, The Arnold Engineering Development Center has, in the course of its history, provided critical test support for the development and production of weapons system programs of the highest national importance, including among others, Peacekeeper, Small ICBM, F-15, F-16, Advanced Tactical Fighter, B-1, B-2, Space Shuttle, Strategic Defense Initiative, National Aerospace Plane, Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18, Tomahawk, and numerous classified programs; and

WHEREAS, In the last half century, the Development Center's significance to the Department of Defense, the United States Air Force, and the Nation has expanded; the Center, in this age of ever increasing technology, serves as an important connection between technology and weapons systems; and

WHEREAS, AEDC's available capacity for its commercial customers translates into lower costs for the U.S. taxpayer and unquestioned leadership for America as an aerospace nation; and

WHEREAS, the Arnold Engineering Development Center is a good steward of the environment, not only protecting the resources under its control but also enhancing them for the betterment of the neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, For fifty years, AEDC has provided one-half billion dollars of annual economic gain to the Middle Tennessee area, an impact that is seen in the region's outstanding school systems and general prosperity of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, An active and positive force in the community, the Development Center supports and facilitates many educational, economic, and culture-enhancing opportunities for area youth and adults alike; and

WHEREAS, A good neighbor and exceptional research and testing facility, we are proud to house this remarkable installation within our state borders; and

WHEREAS, It is this legislative body's great privilege at this momentous juncture to pay tribute to the AEDC for their considerable contributions and achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Arnold Engineering Development Center on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, commend their service to our great State and Nation, and extend to the members of the United States Air Force and the other staff members of the Development Center our best wishes for every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.